

STATUS OF FFY 2008 PLAN ACTIVITIES
Current through August 31, 2008

QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES: People have information, skills, opportunities and supports to live free of abuse, neglect, financial and sexual exploitation, and violations of their human and legal rights.

Objective 1 *1588 persons with developmental disabilities and family members will be trained to become effective advocates.*

Current Status:

The 2008 Partners in Policymaking graduation was held on June 27-28. There were eighteen graduates from the 25 individuals who began the program in January. Due to effects of Hurricane Gustav, the Partners Reunion has been rescheduled for November 14 – 15, 2008. The new Partners Coordinator is Liz Gary, a Partners 2008 graduate.

Between June 1st and August 31st, twenty-two (22) individuals with disabilities and family members received stipends through Families Helping Families to attend conferences and workshops. A total of 215 individuals have benefited from stipends since October 1, 2007.

Objective 2 *The statewide self-advocacy organization will be supported and strengthened through collaboration with the Louisiana Self-Advocacy Project.*

Current Status:

There are a total of 19 affiliated chapters of People First with 350 members. People First partnered with the Secretary of State's Office and the Advocacy Center to provide training on voting rights and procedures at 6 local People First Chapters across the state.

Objective 3 *Members of the Council and its committees will be supported to serve as effective advocates for state and national systems change and receive staff and administrative support to effectively implement the Council's mission and goals.*

Current Status:

Fifteen family members and individuals with disabilities were supported to attend the Council meeting in July 2008.

The Council Member Travel Stipend Fund of \$3,000 has been depleted for this Federal Fiscal year

Objective 4 *The lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families will be enhanced by continuing a collaborative relationship among the Council, the Advocacy Center, and the Human Development Center.*

Current Status:

Approximately 3,709 people are subscribed to receive the *TriAngle* newsletter.

Objective 5 The parents or family members of 25 individuals residing in developmental centers will be educated on the value and benefits of transition from institutional services to individualized community supports and resources that are available in the community (including housing).

Current Status:

Twenty-five family members of persons living at Pinecrest Developmental Center were mentored through the Evergreen project. The project was completed in March.

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE OR OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS IN A COMMUNITY, INCLUDING FORMAL AND INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THAT AFFECT THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

Objective 6 2500 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will receive individual and family supports through support of grassroots systemic advocacy.

Current Status:

LaCAN now has 2,547 members coordinated by 8 LaCAN Regional Leaders. There are two LaCAN Regional Leader vacancies in Regions 1 and 10. A legislative debriefing meeting with LaCAN Regional Leaders and FHF Directors took place in late July. Events of the 2008 Legislative Session were reviewed to determine what worked and what did not work. LaCAN began to develop initial plans for the 2009 Legislative Session.

Objective 7 Reform of the long term care system to align resources to meet demand will be advanced through advocacy, collaboration, coordination, and education of legislators, policy makers and other stakeholders.

Current Status:

The Council continues to participate in work groups responsible for decisions that affect systems change, including the OCDD Resource Allocation Stakeholders Group and several regional OCDD and Human Services Districts' Advisory Boards. Council members met personally with legislators to discuss the need to align resources with demand and successfully advocated for waiver slots.

Objective 8 75,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to obtain the information, training, and support they need through support to the Families Helping Families Resource Centers.

Current Status:

Between June and August 2008, 4,728 people received information, referral or other support from their Regional FHF Center.

The Families Helping Families Association has been established and the by-laws and criteria for membership in the association have been created.

Objective 9 27,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families will continue to receive information on disability services and resources through the continued operation of the Disability Information Access Line (DIAL) and the Information and Referral services provided by the nine FHF Regional Resource Centers.

Current Status:

Disability Related Calls to DIAL:	503	Follow-up Calls Attempted:	22
Individuals w/ Dis.:	243	Follow-up Calls Completed:	10
Family members:	202	Caller Satisfaction:	100%
Professionals:	58		
Other Calls to DIAL:	164	Hurricane related calls to date:	1,407
Total Calls:	667		

Objective 10 300 direct support professionals (DSP) will be recruited and/or supported through collaboration with the Human Development Center in the development and distribution of recruitment materials.

Current Status:

The OCDD Work Group on DSP Wages has not met in recent months. DHH has plans to conduct a survey of DSP wages and compare them to DSPs working in the public sector. It is hoped that the survey data, combined with data obtained from cost reporting, will result in increased DSP wages through administrative rule.

Objective 11 The emergency preparation needs of 5000 people with developmental disabilities will be included in the Red Cross sheltering plans and the state and parish emergency operations' plans.

Current Status:

The Council continues to collaborate with a multi-agency Emergency Preparedness workgroup which includes the Advocacy Center, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Human Development Center and other organizations. The group developed a system to recruit and coordinate volunteers who have experience supporting people with disabilities to work in "general needs" shelters during an emergency as part of an overall plan to avoid having people with disabilities segregated into "special needs" shelters. Hurricane Gustav and Ike provided an opportunity to assess the status of the emergency disaster response system.

HOUSING ACTIVITIES: Adults choose where and with whom they live.

Objective 12 Persons with disabilities will have increased access to housing through Council efforts.

Current Status:

The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) received approval in late July from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to begin the Money Follows the Person (MFP)

demonstration grant and the new Residential Options Waiver (ROW). Although grant activities began immediately, certain steps must be taken before OCDD can begin transitioning people with disabilities to communities through the Council's contract. OCDD has been given until June 2009 to complete contract activities.

The Council continues to be represented on the Baton Rouge area Community Housing Advocacy Network (CHAN) and the DHH Housing Advisory Group. The Baton Rouge CHAN plans to impact local housing by receiving Low Income Tax Credits training and attending Consolidated Planning meetings.

HEALTH ACTIVITIES: People are healthy and benefit from the full range of needed health services.

Objective 13 *Health care for persons with developmental disabilities will become a priority in Louisiana as a result of the DD Council's collaboration with at least 8 advocacy bodies, programs and projects.*

Current Status:

The Council is represented on 7 health related groups: Donaldsonville Health Coalition, DHH Medical Care Advisory Committee, Louisiana Integrated Treatment System Consumer Advisory Board, Healthy Washington Parish 2010, Office of Addictive Disorders Advisory Council, CAHSD MHAB, and National Association of State Medicaid Directors.

Objective 14 *Consumer-directed health care practices will be improved as a result of Council action.*

Current Status:

SB546 was passed during the Legislative Session and effectively replaces Act 451 (HB 697). Act 451 never went into effect because an administrative rule was never published. Like Act 451, the new law is intended to establish a system for training direct support professionals to perform some routine nursing tasks for individuals who live in their own homes and who have stable health.

EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES: Students reach their educational potential and infants and young children reach their developmental potential.

Objective 15 *500 people will become active in systems advocacy about inclusive education through establishment of a statewide family-driven special education grassroots advocacy organization.*

Current Status:

LaTEACH has 792 members and is represented on the Alternate Diploma Taskforce and the Special Education Advisory Council. The LaTEACH Coordinator addressed BESE at the BESE High School Redesign Committee meeting in August and encouraged them to stop deferring the Diploma Options issues. Personal contacts with BESE members resulted in BESE requiring the Department to develop recommendations on Diploma Options for BESE for the December 2008 meeting.

The Council has received many calls from teachers, parents, and others about the 2008 Inclusive Schools Art Contest. Judging of the art will take place at the State Library on Monday, October 13th through Thursday, October 16th between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. The awards ceremony will be at the LSU Lod Cook Conference Center on Thursday, December 4th at 1:30 PM. All Council members are encouraged to participate in judging entries and to attend the awards ceremony.

Objective 16 *The DD Council will be represented on at least 3 educational decision making bodies in order to represent the interests of students with developmental disabilities.*

Current Status:

The Council is represented on 13 educational and/or early childhood groups: LA State Positive Behavioral Support Team; LDE Special Education Liaison Group; Division of Education Improvement and Assistance State Performance Plan (SPP) Steering Committee; LDE Autism Advisory Committee; LA Indian Education Association; State Interagency Coordinating Council; Children's Cabinet Advisory Board; State Performance Plan (SPP) Part B Committee/ Policy Review Group; Validated Practices Committee; New Sarpy Elementary PTO Board; Brightstarts – Parent Education and Family Support; LDOE Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee; and SIG Management Team.

Objective 17 *The capacity of libraries to increase awareness of disabilities will be enhanced through the development of library resources and corresponding programs.*

Current Status:

Accomplished in FFY 2007

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES: People get and keep employment consistent with their interests, abilities and needs.

Objective 18 *Young adults with developmental disabilities will gain employment experience through a governmental internship program developed by the Council in collaboration with other state agencies.*

Current Status:

Council funding for the Count Us In Government Internship program is coming to an end. The first two interns completed their internship assignments in the Houma/Thibodaux area. The third intern is currently working in Baton Rouge. The Count Us In Advisory Committee has plans to continue the program without Council funding.

The Council is represented at monthly planning meetings for the Job Fairs for People with Disabilities that are scheduled to occur in October. This is the last year that the job fairs will receive funding through a grant with the Louisiana Medicaid Purchase Plan.

TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES: People have transportation services for work, school, medical, and personal needs.

Objective 19 *Transportation choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities will be expanded through the Council's assistance in the coordination of at least one transportation program in Louisiana.*

Current Status:

The Council is represented on Mayor's Councils on Disabilities. The staff is researching transportation initiatives in other states for our Council to pursue in the future.

RECREATION ACTIVITIES: People benefit from inclusive recreational, leisure and social activities consistent with their interests and abilities.

Objective 20 *50 individuals with developmental disabilities will have opportunities to enjoy increased or enhanced recreational activities through Council collaborative efforts.*

Current Status:

The Inclusive Recreation project (Jambalaya or APIL) is completing its first year of operation. The model has received positive results. Hurricane Gustav has delayed the completion of the accessibility features for the playground by the Ascension Parish Recreation Department. Therefore, the project was given approval for a time extension to use Council funds committed to finish the playground. Beginning October 1st the Inclusive Recreation model adopted by APIL will be utilized by Hammond and Mandeville City Recreation Departments.

The Louisiana Indian Education Association (LIEA) is making plans for the 10th Anniversary LIEA Indian Youth Leadership Camp in the Spring of 2009. Other events will be planned for 2009 and LIEA will continue its outreach to individuals with disabilities. In addition, LIEA collaborates with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs on its annual Indian scholarship that is funded by the sale and renewal of the American Indian license plates.

CHILD CARE ACTIVITIES: Children and families benefit from a range of inclusive, flexible childcare options.

Objective 21 *Childcare providers in each region of the state will have access to training on supporting children with disabilities in inclusive day care settings.*

Current Status:

The Inclusive Child Care Train-the-Trainers project is in the final evaluation phase. Surveys are being collected from child care trainers to develop a data base of trainer feedback and usage of modules (e.g., by trainer type and geographic location).